Revision of Rates of Royalty for Coal

1350. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revision in the rates of royalty for different grades of coal which has been due since 1985 has not been finalised so far, although the State Government of Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar have put forward a proposal in this regard suggesting that royalty rates be fixed on *ad valorem* basis; and

(b) if so, by when the Central Government propose to revise the rates of royalty on coal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 provides that the Central Government may enhance or reduce the rate of royalty but stipulates that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate or royalty more than once during any period of three years. Prior to 1986, the stipulated period was four years. The last revision of royalty on coal was in 1981 and, therefore, royalty could have been revised from 1985 and once in three years thereafter.

The issue of revision of rates of royalty on coal was considered by the Government. Some State Governments have also represented to the Central Govt. to revise the rates of royalty on coal and fix it on an *ad valorem* basis.

The rates of royalty on coal have not been revised because some State Governments have levied cesses at high rates which have contributed to substantial increase in price of coal paid by the users. There is no maximum time limit prescribed under Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 for revision in rates of royalty.

Passenger Traffic in International Fights

1351. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ratio of incoming and outgoing passengers in the four International Airports during 1989-90;

(b) whether any new international airline is going to operate through the Calcutta Airport; and

(c) what steps are being taken to introduce more international flights through Calcutta and Madras airports ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The ratio of incoming to outgoing passengers at Bombay, Calcutta , Delhi and Madras airports is 0·905, 0·998, 0·987 and 1·015 respectively.

(b) No new foreign airline has filed Schedule with the Government in the recent past for operating new flights to Calcutta airport.

(c) During the bilateral air services negotiations with foreign countries, Government offers traffic rights to foreign carriers at Calcutta and Madras airports more liberally as compared to Delhi and Bombay airports.

Assurance on Drugs

1352. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-item which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' on the 4th August, 1990 captioned "Assurances on drugs denied"

(b) whether it is a fact that the President of OPPI made a statement that Government have assured that recommendations of BICP would be accepted without any examination and no further drugs would be included under price control;

(c) whether it is also a fact that trade associations have been misled and provoked for confrontation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some statements to this effect have appeared in the Newspapers.

(c) and (d) Misinformation has been spread that the Government has decided to reduce the trade margins; whereas the fact of the matter is that no such decision has been taken. Industry and trade were assured that all the issues will be decided on merits and keeping in view the objective of abundant availability of medicines at reasonable prices.

Revision of Bulk Drug Prices

1353. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the formulations and bulk drugs prices of which have been revised after the new Government took over;

(b) what were their earlier prices and what are the revised prices of each; and

(c) what is the percentage increase in each case and what steps have been taken to arrest the trend of increase in their prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) The requisite information in respect of bulk drugs is given in the annexed Statement. (*see* below). Similar information in respect of formulations is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House. The prices of controlled drugs and formulations are fixed in accordance with the provisions contained in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987. In the case of non-scheduled medicines, Government keep a constant watch and intervene in such cases where the increase appears to be abnormal. In a number of cases the manufacturers of non-scheduled medicines have reduced the prices after Government's intervention.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the drug	Old price (Rs.)	New price (Rs.)	%increase/ decrease
1	Aluminium Hydroxile	22/Kg	29.13/Kg	+32.41
2	Procain Penicillin G	1127/BU	1022/BU	-9.32
3	Sodium Penicillin G	1108/BU	1207/BU	+8.94
4	Potassium Penicillin G	650/BU	695/BU	+6.92
5	Sodium Pass	151/Kg	166/Kg	+9.93
6	Iodochlorohydroxyquinoline (a) Atul Products (b) East India Pharma (c) Albert David	269/Kg 296/Kg *307/Kg	275/Kg	-10.42